

BC SUPPORT Unit Advisory Council

Minutes

April 6, 2020 at 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Attendees: Lynn Stevenson (chair), Ellen Chesney, Bev Holmes, David Ostrow, Martha MacLeod, Anni Rychtera

Ex-officio: Minnie Downey, Stirling Bryan, Terri Fleming, Kelly Moran, Victoria Schuckel

Tentative:

Regrets: Gregory Haljan, Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, Bernie Pauly, Swapnil Shah, Anne-Marie Visockas, Martin Wright

Guests:

Secretariat: Sara Lima Branco

1. Call the Meeting to Order

L. Stevenson welcomed all members to this meeting of the BC SUPPORT Unit Advisory Council and brought the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

L. Stevenson acknowledged that this meeting is being hosted from within the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Esquimalt, Songhees, Tsawout, WJOLELP, Pauquachin, MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat), and Tseycum First Nations, and of the Metis people.

3. Action items review

There were 2 action items from the previous meeting:

- K. Moran will touch base with P. Atherton, re: potential synergies between the MSFHR and the SUPPORT Unit, on the topic of Capacity Development in Phase II.
 - **UPDATE:** This item will be addressed Phase II discussion. **This item will be closed.**
- K. Moran will add an additional step to the process and share the Phase II application again with the advisory council, after additional feedback from the Council, Ministry and BC AHSN BoD has been incorporated, per a request from the Council.
 - **UPDATE:** This item will be addressed Phase II discussion. **This item will be closed.**

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were presented to the group. Quorum had not been reached, so the minutes were not approved. The meeting continued without a quorum in light of the current challenges in scheduling due to COVID-19 crisis.

5. Phase II application status

- a. Changes since last meeting

A review was provided as to the new submission date for the SPOR SUPPORT Unit Phase II application. The BC SUPPORT Unit has been looking as to how more in-depth discussions / additional consultations with stakeholders could occur, given this new timeline – taking into consideration that COVID-19 does affect the ability for some individuals to engage in these discussions / consultations.

6. COVID-19

- a. Patient Perspective

The BC SUPPORT Unit received feedback from patient partners, outlining concerns that POR may be put aside, in the face of rapidly changing needs. There was also concern that they may be left behind. The BC SUPPORT Unit news bulletin spoke to these concerns this [here](#) and [here](#).

A. Rychtera spoke to her experience as a patient partner during COVID-19 and the rapid changes occurring. Patients partners are affected by COVID-19 on a myriad of levels; but virtual means of communication have allowed the patient partners to remain in contact, and to act as a support system for each other.

The BC SUPPORT Unit has allocated funds to the MSFHR COVID-19 initial grant call, to provide services and funds to researchers that would like to take a patient-oriented approach. This includes creating a summary of all the research, to work to avoid duplication and match up parties working on similar work (and welcome patient partners into this work). Additionally, the BC SUPPORT Unit will be working with MSFHR on the design of, and gathering input from patient, public and communities during this process.

b. Phase I - response to current environment

Earlier today, Regional Centre staff, Ministry Staff, and Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research staff met, to discuss the potential impacts of pausing ongoing research projects, to instead focus on COVID-19.

c. Phase II – reflection in the phase II application

The BC SUPPORT Unit has been in discussion with CIHR, regarding extending Phase I by 1 year, and have Phase II still start on its scheduled time (April 1, 2021).

Request was posed to the group, to forward any thoughts and ideas of specific aspects or ideas that the BC SUPPORT Unit should add to the plan for next year as relates to COVID-19.

Some researchers and groups (i.e., Rural and remote health researchers and Indigenous communities) are often thinking about communities as a group. Keeping these communities, and the impacts they may encounter, in mind could reflect the need to change / reconsider the language used (i.e., potential use of 'public', or 'patient, public and community').

d. Addition to the agenda: Michael Smith Foundation of Research

The BC Government has asked the MSFHR to provide secretariat services for a Provincial COVID-19 Strategic Research Advisory Committee that will report to the provincial response Planning Section Chief Health Emergency Coordination Centre. Funding been allocated for funding research through the MSFHR COVID-19 Research Response Fund. More information is available [here](#).

7. Summary / Next steps

Inquiry was posed to the group of how to tackle the difficulties of the word 'patient', and some of the limitations and resistance to this word. Terms such as 'patient, public and community' or 'patient, public and communities' were discussed.

8. Group adjourned at 3:16pm.